difficult to maintain even minimum supply of SKO through PDS to consumers residing in inaccessible and remote sensitive border regions of the State (.) Situation further worsened due to inadequate LPG coverage in the State—etc., etc."

The whole State is not fully covered with petrol, diesel and kerosene oil retail outlets and LPG distributors. Out of 12 districts in Arunachal Pradesh, two districts, namely East Kameng and Changlang, do not have petrol and kerosene retail outlets. Similarly, out of 12 districts, four districts, namely Towang, East Kameng, Upper Subansiri and Changlang, do not have LPG distributors.

In view of the above facts, I urge upon the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to examine the whole issue and direct the officers of Marketing Division, Indian Oil Corporation and State level Oil Co-ordinator, Guwahati, to prepare feasibility reports to set up more petrol, diesel and kerosene retail outlets and appoint more LPG distributors in the State to meet the total requirement of petroleum products. I would also like to mention there that if more kerosene oil is supplied and if more LPG distributors are appointed, the wanton destruction of forests for fuel in this tribal State could be stopped once and for all and the ecological balance could be maintained.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Dr. Y. Sivaji. Not here. Shri Suresh Kalmadi. Not here. Shri Sukomal Sen.

Ominous Move by the U.S. Government to Repeal Pressler Law

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the House to a very important matter. Of course, it is coming out every day in the news papers and the Prime Minister is seized of the matter and Shri Salman Khurshed, who is here, is also seized of the matter. Even then I feel that I should draw the attention of the Government and the House again to that. It is that the U. S. State Department has recently indicated that it would like the Congress to drop the Pressler amendment which bars military and economic aid to Pakistan unless the President certifies that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear device. This news has come at a time when the country was in a very serious situation and it was undergoing tension with regard to Hazarat bal mosque.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to two statements made by the U. S. Government. One is about the indication that the Pressler amendment is going to be withdrawn and the other statement is made by the U. S. spokeswoman, Ms. Raphael, that they dispute the accession of Kashmir to India. They said that it was a disputed territory. She might have said that it was a disputed territory. But she challenged the accession of Kashmir to India. Now these two statements have come at a particular time when the Government of India was seized of the Hazratbal issue and the country was undergoing serious tension. Why did the Government of United States think it fit to indicate that the Pressler Amendment is going to be withdrawn? At the same time, why did the spokeswoman of the Foreign Department make that statement? It is not surprising. We have been watching that for the last three years the United States Government has been behaving in a different way, as an international policeman. They want to put one country against the other so that regional conflicts take place and they subserve their colonial and imperialist disings. I don't know how far this Pressler Amendment was a victim. But theoretically, it was a damper to the nuclear programme of Pakistan. Despite the Present Amendment. I feel that Pakistan was going ahead with its nuclear programme. Even then the Pressler Amendment was actually a damper because it discouraged the nuclear programme of Pakistan, it discouraged flow of both funds and equipment to Pakistan. But now if it is withdrawn, what will be the effect on India? On the one side, it will increase the offensive capabilities of Pakistan and on the other side it will seriously affect the defence of India. This is one aspect. The other aspect is, the American

spokeswoman has challenged the accession of Kashmir to India. It gives another dimension to the problem. It means that Kashmir problem should remain alive and pakistan's claim in regard to Kashmir is easily accepted by the United States. This is another dimension of the problem. This matter, I think, draws serious attention of the Government.

Mr. Pressler and two other Senators are already on a visit to India. They have already met our Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has talked to them. Press reports have also come out. But I don't know the details of the talks. Some reports have come out. I would like the Government to place on the Table of the House whatever talks were there between the Prime Minister and Mr. Pressler and two other Senators, and whatever the Prime Minister has said about that spokeswoman's statement about accession of Kashmir to India, challenging accession of Kashmir to India. All these facts should be placed on the Table of the House. The Government should come out with a statement about Government's talks with Mr. Pressler and two other Senators and Government's attitude towards the spokeswoman's statement about accession of Kashmir to India. All these facts should be placed before the House. The House should be given a chance to discuss this matter threadbare because India's defence is in question, India's defence is involved, the question of India's integrity is involved, the question of accession of Kashmir to India is involved. This is why the parliament should be taken into confidence. I would request Shri Salman Khursheed, who is here, to tell the House that they would place, all the talks that were held between the Prime Minister and Mr. Pressler and two other Senators, on the Table of House. The House should be given a chance to discuss the matter so that the Members can express their concern and give suggestions in this matter which has come before us.

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Mr. Salman Khursheed is present here. I expect that the hon. Minister should respond to it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : I cannot compel the Minister. If the Minister wants, can react.

SHRI M. A. BABY : The Minister does not require any compulsion.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal) : It is a very important issue.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : I would only say that the concern expressed by the hon. Members is the concern that the Government of India feels. We are keeping our eyes and ears open and doing whatever is necessary to protect India's interest. I am sure that there will be an opportunity to discuss this at an appropriate stage. I can assure the hon. Members that India's foreign policy will never be wanting in protecting India's interests. What has been said by the hon. Members, has been noted carefully.

Damage to Punjab Cotton Crop by American Bollworm

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA (Punjab) : Sir, I want to raise an issue of damage to the cotton crop in Punjab by the American bollworm which has resulted in damage to the cotton crop to the extent of 50 per cent putting the farmers of punjab in a great hard-ship and I demand compensation from the Government. The production of cotton crop has fallen drastically because of the massive attack by the American ballworm bringing down the output by 40 per cent. Punjab which produced 29 lakh bales of cotton last year, is expected to produce less than 16 lakh bales this season. The cotton yield per acre has fallen down from 8-10 quintals per acre to 2 to 5 quintals per acre this year. The yield fell